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XXVII.—*Notes on the Ornithology of Sardinia.*

By A. B. BROOKE, F.Z.S.

[Continued from page 155.]

32. YUNX TORQUILLA.

I only on one occasion came across this bird during the months of April, May, and the early part of June, although one would imagine numbers must pass through the island on their migration, as they are exceedingly numerous at that season amongst the olive-groves along the Riviera. I think, however, the spring of 1871 must have been an unfavourable one for migration, as I met with very few species, and very few individuals of each species excepting the most common. The same remark was also made to me by Marquis Doria in reference to Genoa, which is in ordinary seasons one of the best spots on that coast.

33. GECINUS VIRIDIS.

I never saw or heard this bird during any of my visits to the south of the island; neither did Salvadori during his stay there. It is stated by Cara to be not uncommon in the north.

34. PICUS MAJOR.

Extremely common in the forests, where his loud clicking note is always to be heard.

35. *PICUS MINOR*.

Not uncommon, according to Cara. I never saw one.

36. *CUCULUS CANORUS*.

Very common in summer. I heard the first on the 8th of April 1871, and on the 11th of April 1870. In the Riviera I have heard them as early as the 4th of April.

37. *CORACIAS GARRULA*

is stated by Signor Cara to frequent in small numbers certain localities between Cagliari and Orre, and also near Oristano. I did not see any during my short stay in the latter place.

38. *ALCEDO ISPIDA*.

It is curious I never saw a Kingfisher during my stay in Sardinia, although I visited many likely localities. Cara and Salvadori, however, state it is not uncommon.

39. *MEROPS APIASTER*.

From about the 17th of April large flocks of these birds began to appear, flying very high in a northerly direction. The first arrivals seemed all to pass on further north; and it was quite a week later before they began to settle in the south of the island. On their migration they keep up their soft musical note, which can be heard a long distance off. Large numbers build in the island.

40. *UPUPA EPOPS*.

Common, arriving in considerable numbers in spring. Cara states that some stay during the winter, which I think doubtful. They arrive very early in April. I had a nestling brought to me on the 29th of May.

41. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS*.

I only once put up one of these birds, on the top of some high mountains, in the middle of April.

42. *CYPSELUS MELBA*.

On the 30th of March I first saw a pair of Swifts; but they were flying too high to distinguish to which species they belonged. The present species builds in great numbers in the high rocks and precipices about the mountains.

43. *CYPSELUS APUS.*

This and the preceding species arrive about the same time, viz. the end of the first week in April. During that month I constantly met small flocks flying rapidly and steadily in a northerly direction, over the large plain, extremely low, and taking advantage of every small dip and hollow to shelter themselves from the strong northerly wind which was blowing during the month.

44. *CHELIDON URBICA.*

First seen on the 27th of March. Very common and breeding in the island.

45. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA.*

Arrives in small numbers about the end of February or early in March, from which time they keep gradually increasing in numbers. Young birds were hatched about the 9th of May.

46. *COTYLE RUPESTRIS.*

Common and resident, breeding in the rocks and cliffs.

47. *COTYLE RIPARIA.*

Arrives early in March, and is common.

48. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.*

Common in summer, arriving in the middle of April.

49. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.*

I procured a female of this species, the only specimen I ever saw, on the 24th of April.

50. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS.*

Not common.

51. *LANIUS EXCUBITOR.*

Rare. There are two specimens in the Cagliari museum.

52. *LANIUS MINOR.*

Dr. Salvadori mentions this bird as being very common. It certainly is not so about the south, where I never met with a single specimen.

53. *LANIUS AURICULATUS.*

Most abundant. Began to appear on the 7th of April;

from that date their numbers were increased rapidly by fresh arrivals; and towards the middle of the month the topmost leaf of every cactus hedge, which forms their favourite perch, was sure to be occupied by one of this species. They seem to prefer plains, as, although they extend occasionally into the low hills, I never remember seeing one in the high mountains.

54. *LANIUS COLLURIO*.

Arrives a great deal later than the preceding species (the first I saw not being till the 10th of May), and is not so numerous. They also differ considerably in their choice of locality, preferring the low hills and mountains, and being rarely found on the plain. The stomach of one I shot was full of the elytra of beetles and a small lizard.

Note.—*Lanius meridionalis* is included in Dr. Salvadori's list of the birds of Sardinia; but he has since rectified his mistake in Sharpe and Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' in their excellent article on the Southern Grey Shrike. It, therefore, cannot be included in this list.

55. *PARUS MAJOR*.

By far the commonest Titmouse in Sardinia, where it is resident; and during spring their loud call-note is to be heard ringing through every orchard.

56. *PARUS ATER*.

Scarce; confined to the forests on the mountains.

57. *PARUS CÆRULEUS*.

Moderately common. In the winter they come down about the plains, where I never remember having seen them during summer.

58. *TICHODROMA MURARIA*.

Rare.

59. *TROGLODYTES VULGARIS*.

Extremely common in the mountains; but I never remember hearing or seeing one on the plains.

60. *CINCLUS AQUATICUS*.

It surprised me very much to find this bird absent on many

streams that I constantly examined both in the mountains and plains, though Cara and Salvadori consider it common. This certainly is not the case in the south of the island.

61. *TURDUS VISCIVORUS.*

Common all the year round in the mountains.

62. *TURDUS PILARIS.*

A rare winter visitor.

63. *TURDUS ILIACUS.*

A winter visitor, but never numerous.

64. *TURDUS MUSICUS.*

Extremely abundant in winter. Very few, if any, remain to breed.

65. *TURDUS MERULA.*

Common at all seasons; but their numbers are greatly increased during winter.

66. *MONTICOLA CYANUS.*

Common and stationary all the year. I have heard their wild cheerful song early in March.

67. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS.*

Included in Cara's and Salvadori's list as "not rare." I never saw one.

68. *SAXICOLA LEUCURA.*

A rare visitor. Salvadori mentions one having been killed near Cagliari during his visit there in winter.

69. *SAXICOLA STAPAZINA.*

70. *SAXICOLA AURITA.*

I never saw either of these species; but they are included in both of the above-mentioned lists.

71. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE.*

First appeared on the 7th of April, after which date they were very abundant on the plains. Salvadori mentions having seen some during winter along the Scaffa of Maddalena in the north of the island.

72. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA.

Not common. The only occasion on which I met with this bird was during the early part of May, in the extreme S.W. of the island.

73. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA.

Common and stationary. They are always very shy and hard to approach.

74. ACCENTOR ALPINUS.

My brother, Sir V. Brooke, who was with me in November 1869, observed a small flock of this species amongst the rocks at the back of Villacidro; it is, however, a rare bird in the island; and none remain during the summer.

75. ACCENTOR MODULARIS.

I do not consider this by any means a common bird in the island. I only met with it on one occasion; this was in the month of March.

76. RUTICILLA PHENICURA.

I never saw this species till the beginning of April. Salvadori mentions having seen some during winter.

77. RUTICILLA TITHYS.

Not uncommon during winter. I do not think they remain to breed in the south of the island.

78. ERITHACUS RUBECULA.

Common. I have noticed a great accession of numbers in the plain during winter, but do not feel certain whether these are residents in the island, driven from the mountains by the severity of the weather, or whether they are fresh arrivals. I never saw Robins in Sardinia on any occasion resorting to houses, gardens, &c. in the same manner as on the continent.

79. DAULIAS LUSCINIA.

Arrives in great numbers during the month of April, appearing generally about the 15th. From that date till the beginning of June the whole country is alive with their glorious song bursting forth from every hedge and bush.

Note.—*Daulias philomela*. Signor Cara includes this species in his catalogue; but a supposed specimen shown by him to me, and now in my collection, belongs to the common species (*D. lusciniæ*).

80. CURRUCA ATRICAPILLA.

Common and abundant, arriving in considerable numbers in spring. I think a few remain in favourite localities all the winter, as I have seen them early in March, long before the arrival of any species of Sylviidae. They are very partial to olive-groves.

81. CURRUCA MELANOCEPHALA.

Extremely numerous, both on the hills and plains, all the year round.

82. SYLVIA CURRUCA.

Not common; there is one specimen in the Cagliari museum.

83. SYLVIA CINEREA.

Common during summer.

84. SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA.

Very common in all the uncultivated parts of the plain, where it is found in company with *C. melanocephala* and *M. sardus*; but I have never seen it on the hills. It is, I think, the most shy of all the Warblers. During the months of April and May the cock bird may generally be seen perched on the highest twig of cistus forty or fifty yards off; but the moment one tries to approach any nearer, it flies off low over the ground, lighting again in a similar situation; and this is repeated time after time in the most tantalizing manner. I do not think all, if any, of these Warblers migrate in winter, as I have seen as many early in March as at any other time of the year. Excepting during the spring, they are very hard to see, always keeping in thick cover; and unless come upon unawares, they creep away through the twigs, close along the ground, without showing themselves. The young birds are able to fly by the middle of May; they have much broader rufous edgings to the feathers than the old birds. Their song is short and pleasant; and the cocks often sing flying up in the air, return-

ing and lighting again in the same spot—a habit so characteristic of the common Whitethroat, to which species this bird appears to bear a remarkable resemblance both in coloration and habits.

85. SYLVIA SUBALPINA.

I cannot say whether these Warblers remain in Sardinia during the winter. They are moderately common in summer on the low wooded scrubby hills and along river-banks. They seem to be more partial to trees than most of the other small Warblers, and are extremely shy and difficult to see. I saw young birds flying on the 12th of May.

86. MELIZOPHILUS SARDUS.

This interesting little Warbler is very common on all the uncultivated parts of the plain, where the undercover (consisting chiefly of cistus) does not grow very tall or thick, but is scattered sparingly; and I have never seen them in the woods. They are, as far as my observations go, entirely confined to the plain, rarely, if ever, wandering, even to the adjoining low hills, where their place seems to be taken by the following very closely allied species. I have only on one occasion met with these two species on the same ground.

M. sardus is a bold little bird, often hopping and creeping about confidently within ten yards, trusting to escape observation by its diminutive size, dusky colour, and quiet unobtrusive habits. Their flight is feeble and wavy, rarely extending any distance; and on alighting it is often hard to see them again, as they creep off close to the ground along the stems of the cistus, and by the time the spot they disappeared in is reached they are thirty or forty yards off, perhaps in an opposite direction. They sing either perched on the top of the cistus or, frequently, in the air, jerking themselves down again into the bushes. Their song is very like that of *M. provincialis*; but I do not think it quite so grating; their alarm note is a single short *tick*, unmistakable when once heard. I was unfortunate in never being able to find a nest, owing to the density and vastness of the undercover; but on the 19th of May I came on a brood of five or six young birds just able

to fly, from which I secured some interesting specimens. They differ from the old ones in being a much paler brown all over, their irides and legs the same colour; in adult birds the irides are a yellow-brown, the legs a light orange-yellow.

M. sardus can always be easily distinguished, even when flying, from all other Warblers, by its uniform dark dusky colour, and more especially from *C. melanocephala* (with which Dr. Bree seems to think it may be confounded), not only by its smaller size, but by the almost entire absence of the white edgings on the outer tail-feathers, which the latter shows very conspicuously when flying.

Dr. Salvadori, in his late work on the birds of Italy, mentions Corsica and Sicily as localities where this bird is found.

87. MELIZOPHILUS PROVINCIALIS.

Common in the low hills covered with cistus, heather, &c., but not so numerous as the last species. It is a good deal smaller than *M. sardus*.

88. REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS.

Very common in the ilex forests on the range of mountains south of Villacidro, in which localities I saw them during the months of May and June. A very young bird shot on the 29th of May showed already, strongly, the white striping on the face.

89. REGULUS CRISTATUS.

I never saw one. Both Cara and Salvadori agree in saying it is commoner in the north than in the south of the island.

I cannot say I have ever been able to detect any perceptible difference between the notes of this bird and the preceding species, though on many previous occasions I have listened attentively to the two species singing simultaneously.

90. PHYLLOPNEUSTE RUFA.

Common. I think a few remain during winter, as I have seen them in February and March.

91. PHYLLOPNEUSTE SYLVICOLA.

Common, arriving in spring, when they frequent the orchards and olive-groves.

92. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE TROCHILUS*.

Not so numerous as the last, but arrives in considerable numbers in spring.

93. *BRADYPTERUS CETTI*.

This is, without exception, the most difficult Warbler I ever came across, either to see or obtain, although in suitable localities its loud bold song may be constantly heard. They love to secrete themselves in the very middle of the densest and most tangled mass of briars and creepers, and are very shy. On hearing any slight noise they often begin their short rich song, but, on the approach of danger, steal off rapidly and silently, bursting forth again thirty or forty yards further on, while one is still anxiously peering into the bush they were last heard in. They are extremely common in Sardinia, going generally singly or in pairs; and every bush that is thick enough along the river-banks or round the shores of the stagnos is sure to hold a pair. They prefer wet marshy places; in fact, I have never seen them except in the vicinity of water. Round Oristano they are particularly numerous.

94. *CALAMODYTA MELANOPOGON*.

There is one specimen of this Warbler in the Turin museum, said to have been killed in Sardinia.

95. *CALAMODYTA AQUATICA*.

Arrives in spring, and breeds. Moderately common in the marshy swamps.

96. *SCHÆNICOLA CISTICOLA*.

Extremely numerous about the large marshy swamps in the neighbourhood of Oristano, where they breed. It is also to be found, but more sparingly, in all suitable localities.

97. *LUSCINIOPSIS LUSCINIODES*.

There is one specimen in the museum at Cagliari.

98. *CALAMODHERPE ARUNDINACEA*.

There are several specimens in the museum. I never met with it in the island.

99. *MOTACILLA ALBA*.

Common in winter. None remain during the summer.

100. *MOTACILLA SULPHUREA.*

Common all the year. They breed in the mountains along the small streams. I saw a young bird flying on the 1st of May.

101. *BUDYTES FLAVA.*

Early in May I met several small flocks at St. Antioco on their passage northwards. Very few, if any, remain in the island to breed.

102. *ANTHUS AQUATICUS.*

Not uncommon in winter.

103. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS.*

Very abundant on the plain.

104. *ANTHUS ARBOREUS.*

I never saw one, although Cara says it is resident. There is one specimen in the Cagliari museum.

105. *ANTHUS CERVINUS.*

Rare.

106. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS.*

Passes in spring in small numbers; and, I think, some remain to breed. They are very partial to semicultivated lands; and I generally found them in old deserted vineyards &c.

107. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS.*

Extremely common, breeding in large numbers on the plain.

108. *ALAUDA ARBOREA.*

Very numerous all the year round. I found a nest finished on the 7th of April; and on the 16th the old bird was sitting on five eggs.

109. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA.*

Arrives in great numbers in the beginning of April, and breeds. None remain during winter. These birds prefer the most barren and open parts of the plain, where they are extremely numerous.

110. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA.*

This fine Lark is extremely common on the plain all the year round. They seem to have a strong power of mi-

miery, as I have several times most distinctly heard the notes of other birds mixed up with their songs, especially those of *Passer salicaria* and *Falco tinnunculus*. The sexes differ greatly in size.

111. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*.

Extremely common. His most monotonous song is to be heard all over the country, especially shortly after sunrise.

112. *EMBERIZA MELANOCEPHALA*.

Of doubtful occurrence.

113. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*.

Accidental.

114. *EMBERIZA CIRLUS*.

Very common, breeding both in the mountains and plains, but more especially in the former.

115. *EMBERIZA CIA*.

Cara states a few appear in winter.

116. *EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS*.

Not uncommon during winter along the banks of the stag-nos at Cagliari and Oristano.

117. *PASSER MONTANUS*.

Very rare. There are two specimens in the museum at Cagliari.

118. *PASSER SALICICOLA*.

In Sardinia these birds build in small communities, generally consisting of seven or eight pairs, in the groups of large wild olive-trees that are scattered about in different parts of the plain. A considerable number also build about the houses and towns; but on the whole they do not appear to me as much attached to the dwellings of man as *P. domesticus*. The nests are very similar, being formed externally of dried grass and lined with feathers.

119. *PYRGITA PETRONIA*.

Arrive in considerable numbers about the middle of April, immediately resorting to the orchards and gardens round the towns; but I never saw them in the mountains. None remain during the winter.

120. *FRINGILLA CŒLEBS.*

Very common at all times.

121. *FRINGILLA CHLORIS.*

Extremely common all the year.

122. *LINOTA CANNABINA.*

Common at all times, but more numerous during winter.

123. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS.*

The commonest Finch in the island, going in large flocks. They begin to pair the first week in April.

124. *CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS.*

Cara states it is an annual bird of passage in autumn and spring. I never saw any at either season.

125. *SERINUS HORTULANUS.*

Salvadori says that he observed the Serin Finch at all times of the year, but their numbers are increased during spring. I never saw any in the southern part of the island.

126. *COCCOTHTRAUSTES VULGARIS.*

I did not see any before the 9th of April, when they began to appear in considerable numbers; and during the summer they were common in all the orchards, where they bred.

127. *LOXIA CURVIROSTRA.*

Of very uncertain occurrence during winter. There are two specimens in the museum that were killed in the island.

128. *STURNUS VULGARIS.*

Common in winter. I never saw any during the summer.

129. *STURNUS UNICOLOR.*

Very common, breeding in holes amongst old buildings in the towns. In habits &c. they closely resemble the common species.

130. *PASTOR ROSEUS.*

Their appearance seems quite accidental and of rare occurrence. There are two specimens in the museum.

131. *ORIOLOUS GALBULA.*

Arrive in spring, but are not very numerous.

132. *NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES.*

There is only a single specimen in the museum, which was taken one winter near Aritzu, in the Gennargentu mountains.

133. *FREGILUS GRACULUS.*

Common in the higher ranges in the centre of the island. There are none in the Monte-Limas range.

134. *CORVUS CORAX.*

Very common. On the 2nd of May I was witness to what must have been an unusual migration of these birds. When on the road, halfway between Iglesias and St. Antioco, I saw and counted more than 100 Ravens in one large straggling flock, tossing and tumbling about in the air, performing all kinds of curious antics, uttering incessantly their harsh croak. They were proceeding, as long as I could see them, rapidly and steadily in a north-easterly direction, not flying very high. One nest I found contained six young birds—an unusually large number.

135. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS.*

Common in winter. None remain during the summer.

136. *CORVUS CORONE.*

A few observed in company with the following species.

137. *CORVUS CORNIX.*

Extremely common all about the plain. At Oristano, during the month of March, they used to collect in flocks to roost in the high reeds round the shores of the lakes, flying in like Rooks from all quarters as it began to get dusk, until I am sure there were several hundred collected in one spot.

138. *CORVUS MONEDULA.*

The only locality where I saw any Jackdaws was at Oristano, where they were very common, breeding in the steeples of the churches &c. I should imagine they occur pretty generally through the island.

139. *GARRULUS GLANDARIUS.*

Very numerous in the forests on the mountains at all seasons.

[To be continued.]